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# THE WORLD'S BEST DAHLIAS

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New Peony Dahlia "ALMA DAVIES"

J. W. DAVIES, 1125 FILLMORE STREET  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

### **To My Past and Prospective Patrons:**

It is with a great deal of pleasure and pride that I place before you a number of my own creations which are all field-grown tubers and will be put on the market this year for the first time at very reasonable prices.

The same will be ready for delivery approximately the middle of April, although I did not exhibit in any of the flat work at our last shows. However, it is very gratifying to state that I won first prize in all entries, made with very keen competition, using only my own introductions.

#### **Palace Hotel Show, San Francisco.**

First prize for twelve California Dahlias shown with stem. First prize for best seedling, AL KORAN, which captured the beautiful Rokewood Bowl donated by Mrs. Samuel H. Taft of Cincinnati. First prize for best basket of Peony Dahlias, which was won with Alma Davies.

#### **Oakland Show, Hotel Oakland.**

First prize for eight best California Dahlias shown with stem. First prize for best three-year-old seedling, with AL KORAN. First prize for vase of twelve, one variety, AL KORAN. First prize for best 1921 or 1922 seedling, which was won by a very fine decorative, a seedling from Alma Davies.

Yours for the Dahlia,

J. W. DAVIES.

## ENVIABLE RECORD

### Only My Own Introductions Being Exhibited.

At the Palace Hotel Show, San Francisco, and the Oakland Show, in 1922, I won first prize for the best California Dahlias shown with stem, using only my own introductions, which are as follows. The description of same can be found on pages 2 to 6.

### Best California Dahlias Shown With Stem

#### SAN FRANCISCO SHOW

Aladdin	Mecca
Al Koran	Medinah
Alma Davies	Mrs. Jim McCandless
Al Malaikah	Mohammed
Islam Patrol	Thelma Jorgensen
Ismalia	Syria

### Best California Dahlias Shown With Stem

#### OAKLAND SHOW

Alma Davies  
Al Koran  
Islam Patrol  
Ismalia  
Medinah  
Mrs. Jim McCandless  
Murat  
Syria

The following Dahlias are my own introductions. They are very large with stiff stems and hold the flowers well above foliage, in fact, have every good quality required.

They have won many prizes at the 1921 and 1922 Dahlia Shows.

I have not propagated from any of this stock, therefore, I can thoroughly recommend the keeping qualities of these tubers. They are going on the market for the first time.

### DECORATIVE DAHLIAS

**Aladdin**—Old rose with golden shading. An artist described this as the most perfect blending of colors he had ever seen. \$3.00.

**Aleppo**—Tea rose shading to champagne. The blending of the colors in this Dahlia is unique. \$3.00.

**Al Koran**—Yellow suffused with golden rod and amber. The petals of this flower have the marcelle wave which makes it very attractive. It won first prize at the San Francisco and Oakland Shows in 1922 for best-established seedling. Also first prize for vase of twelve shown with stems at the latter show. This Dahlia should be in everybody's garden. \$5.00.

**Al Malaikah**—Salmon shading to orange yellow, suffused with old rose. Impossible to describe the beauty of this dahlia. \$3.00.

**Ararat**—Burgundy. This flower is not as large as my average. The largest flowers will not exceed seven inches in diameter. \$3.00.

**Hella**—Sienna, antique gold, reverse of petal ruby and fawn. This is another of the medium size, but the blending of color is beautiful. \$3.00.

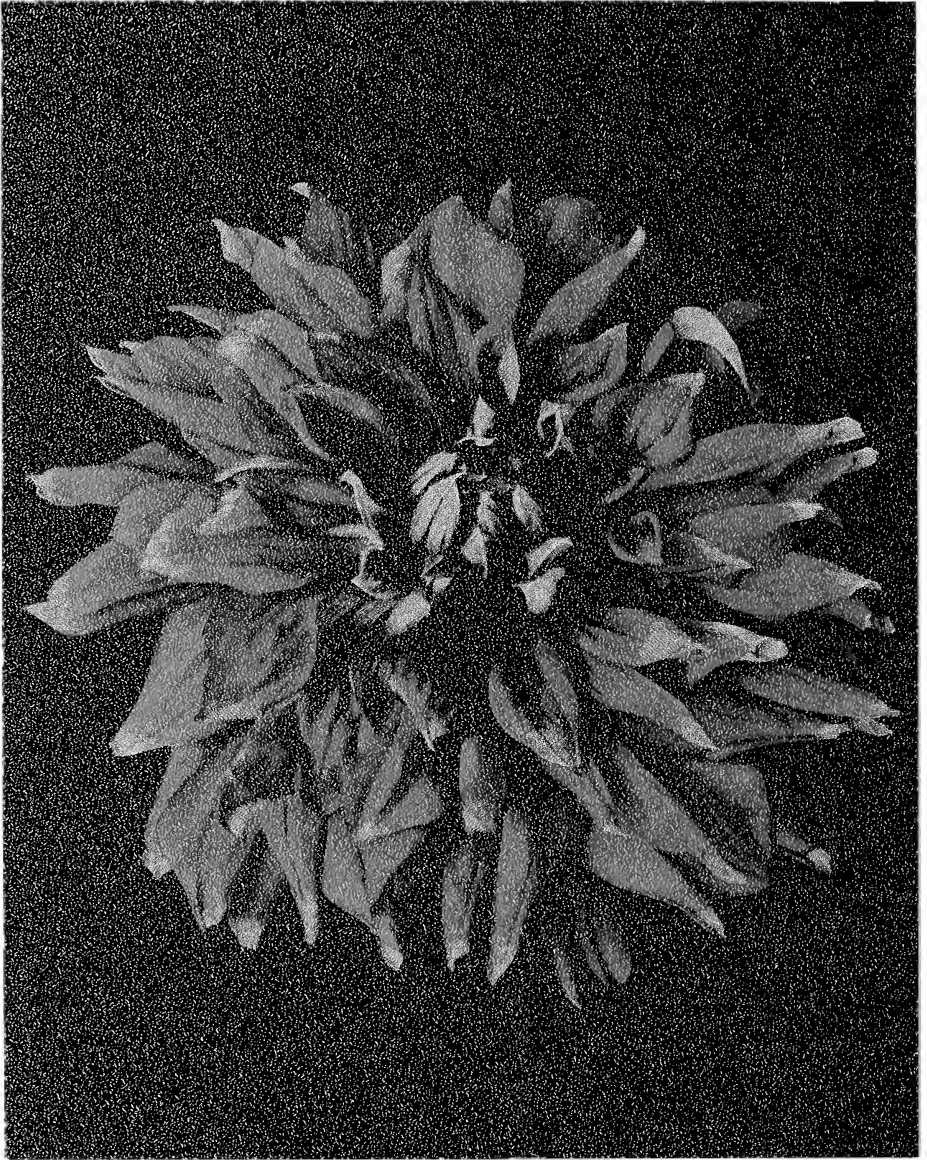
**India**—Lavender pink, shading to orchid. The stem on this Dahlia is slightly pendant but it is far from being weak. We might term this a Ladies' Dahlia as they go in raptures over the color and it is a wonderful keeper. \$3.00.

- Lu Lu**—Ruby, reverse of petals cerise. This flower is very attractive, each petal has a perfect marcelle wave; the flower also has great depth. **For 1924 delivery.**
- Mecca**—Burnt orange. Exceptionally large flowers. In a class by itself as far as color is concerned. \$3.00.
- Medinah**—Cardinal shading to American beauty. This Dahlia was in both of my California collections that won First Prize at the last shows. Blooms are medium size, seven to eight inches, held on good stems well above the foliage. See colored plate on page 9. \$3.00.
- Mohammed**—Soft clear yellow. I cannot truthfully recommend this dahlia as a decorative because many of the flowers come peony form. \$3.00.
- Murat**—Apricot shading to coral pink. The extreme edge of each petal looks as though an artist's brush had painted it with coral pink. \$3.00.
- Salaam**—Shade of fuschia. This flower will not go over seven inches in diameter. \$3.00.

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## PEONY DAHLIAS

**Alma Davies**—Salmon pink shading to deep old rose and apricot. The cut on the cover will give you an idea of size and form. In 1921 I received the following prizes with this dahlia: First prize at Oakland for a vase of twelve blooms, one variety. Also first prize on collection of California Dahlias and first prize on collection of Peony Dahlias at Palace Hotel Show, San Francisco. First prize for vase of best three-year-old seedling, Pacific Coast Horticultural Society, October 26th. In 1922 first prize for best basket of Peony Dahlias at Palace Hotel Show, San Francisco. For other prizes, see page 1. This dahlia will not wilt on a hot day as the ordinary dahlia is apt to do. It is a wonderful keeper and has from fifteen to eighteen inches of stem to the first lateral and every bloom on the bush is perfect. \$5.00.



New Hybrid Cactus Dahlia "ISLAM PATROL"



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## PEONY DAHLIAS

**Mrs. Ernie Hueter**—Rose pink striped and splashed with ruby cerise. This is a very pretty fancy dahlia. **For 1924 delivery.**

**Mrs. Jim McCandless**—Old gold shading to apricot. I figure this dahlia will capture many first prizes for largest dahlia in the show. This dahlia was in all my prize winning collections in 1921 and 1922. \$3.00.

**Thelma Jorgensen**—Cavalry gold, dark orange and white. This dahlia was in my prize winning collection this year. This fancy will very often produce a flower with the solid color of cavalry gold and dark orange. \$3.00.

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I have two more very good Hybrid Cactus Dahlias which will go on the market in the near future. One of them, no doubt, will be the sensational Dahlia of the age. It is a reddish bronze shading to buff with a golden sheen. It is very large with a good stem and an exceptionally good keeper. The foliage of this plant is almost black. It has been named **Alice Voisinet**.

The other is very large, dark cardinal with good stem. This Dahlia has not been named and it will very likely go on the market next year.

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## HYBRID CACTUS

**Islam Patrol**—Very dark velvety scarlet, tipped and flushed with pure gold. The colored plate on page 4 will give you an idea of the coloring. Some of the flowers have a little more gold than the cut shows, which makes them more beautiful. This dahlia should be in every garden as it has wonderful qualities. In 1921 I received first prize in collection of eight best California Dahlias shown with stem. First prize in collection of eight Hybrid Cactus Dahlias, Oakland Show. First prize in collection of nine Hybrid Cactus Dahlias, Palace Hotel Show, San Francisco. For 1922 prizes see page 1. \$7.50.

**Ismalia**—Velvety maroon shading to red. A very large flower with perfect form for your Hybrid Cactus collection. \$3.00.

**Moslem**—Burnt orange shading to amber. A beautiful flower admired by everybody. \$3.00.

**Syria**—The only perfectly-formed fancy Hybrid Cactus. May rose and canary yellow striped and splashed with dark cardinal. This dahlia won three first prizes and one second out of four entries in 1921. See page 1 for 1922 prizes. \$5.00.

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My next Peony to be placed on the market is a very large flower with good form and stem. An excellent exhibition Dahlia. The color is lavender shading to orchid. This one has been named **Jean Robinson**.

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The following is a part of my general collection of standard varieties:

**Amber Glow**—Deep yellow to pale orange; true English cactus. C. \$2.50.

**Ballet Girl**—Orange and white; an enormous flower; very often comes a solid color; in fact, I have seen five flowers on the one bush, with the two colors mixed differently. C. \$2.50.

**California Enchantress**—Beautiful shade of pale pink; the reverse of petal has a touch of cerise which shows in the center when flower is in full bloom. H. C. \$2.00.

**Cream Cup**—Creamy white, slightly cup shaped, collar white. Col. 50c.

**Countess Torby**—Pale scarlet, yellow collar. Col. 50c.

**Daniel Cornish**—Raspberry red. An excellent exhibition flower. S. 50c.

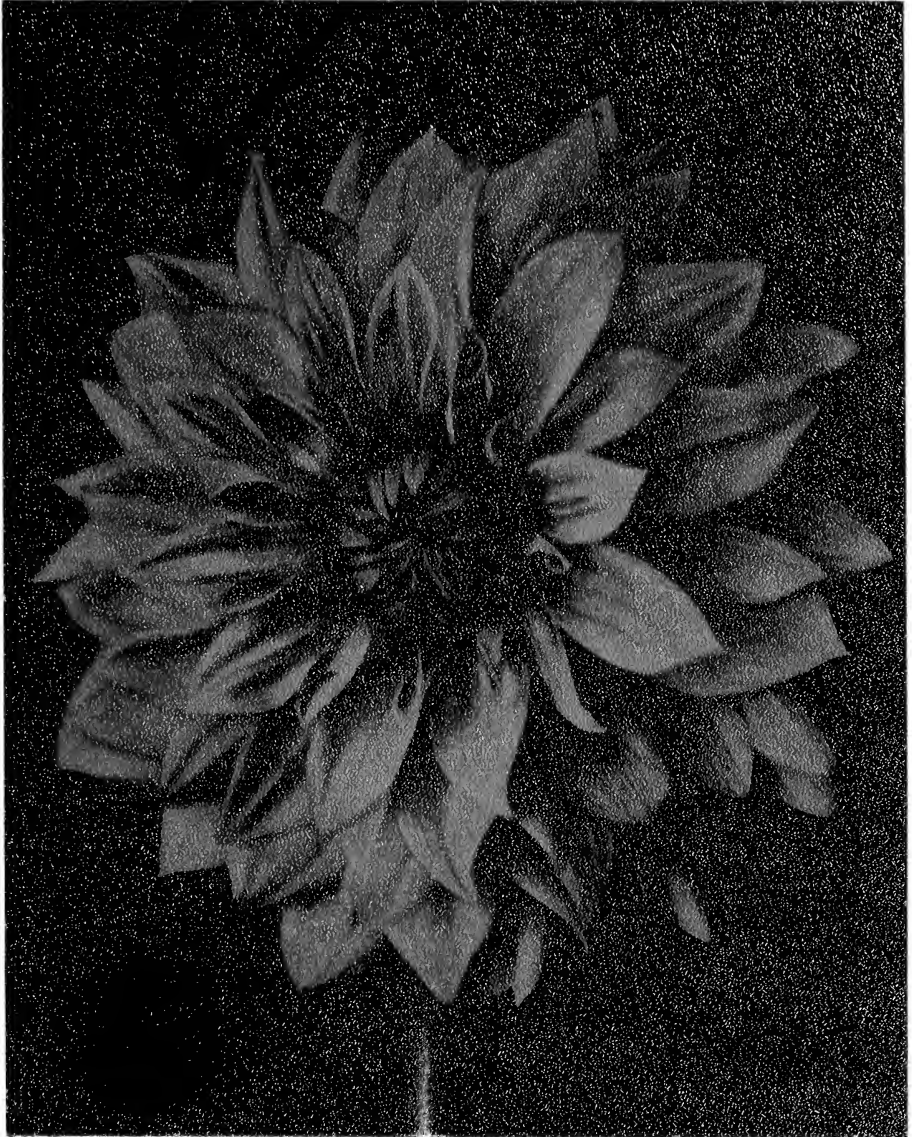
**Diadem**—Maroon. Stems extra stout. S. 50c.

**Dr. Tevis**—A very large flower, blended copper, old rose and old gold. D. \$1.00.

**Edith Cavell**—Reddish bronze with old gold shadings. An English introduction. A wonderful flower, but not a perfect center for exhibition. P. \$1.50.

**E. F. Hawes**—Delicate pink with very stiff stems. C. 75c.

- F. W. Fellows**—Orange to terra cotta. On everybody's exhibition table. C. 75c.
- George Walters**—Pinkish salmon shading to yellow base. H. C. 75c.
- Gold Medal**—Canary yellow striped and overlaid with red. The most attractive show dahlia. S. 50c.
- Gorgeous**—Yellow shading to bright scarlet. Very fine dahlia. P. \$2.50.
- J. W. Davies**—Deep shade of cerise at center, gradually shading to a lighter tint. A very large flower that holds its center throughout the season. \$5.00.
- John Walker**—The best white. S. 50c.
- La Favorita**—Brilliant orange; one of the best. H. C. \$1.50.
- Les Amours de Madam**—Pink, sometimes splashed cerise. One of the best. S. 50c.
- Mary Purier**—Brilliant scarlet. Always a prize winner. I received first prize at Oakland for best dahlia in the show, 1920. C. 75c.
- M. Louis Ferard**—White suffused with rosy purple. Collar same. Col. 50c.
- Mrs. Carl Salbach**—Mauve pink. One of the best exhibition flowers on long stiff stem. D. \$2.00.



**New Decorative Dahlia "MEDINAH"**

**Mrs. Jessie Seal**—Old rose with golden shadings; a beautiful cut flower. P. \$1.00.

**Nugget**—Orange yellow overlaid with brick red. S. 50c.

**Paul Michael**—Deep orange buff shading to old rose on reverse of petals. D. \$3.50.

**Princess Pat**—Old rose. D. \$2.00.

**Richmond**—Velvety crimson. D. \$1.00.

**Shudow's Lavender**—One of Bessie Boston's best introductions. D. \$7.50.

**Slocomb White.**—Pure white hybrid. H. S. \$1.00.

**Souv. Bel Accueii**—Orange red with yellow collar. One of the best collarettes. 50c.

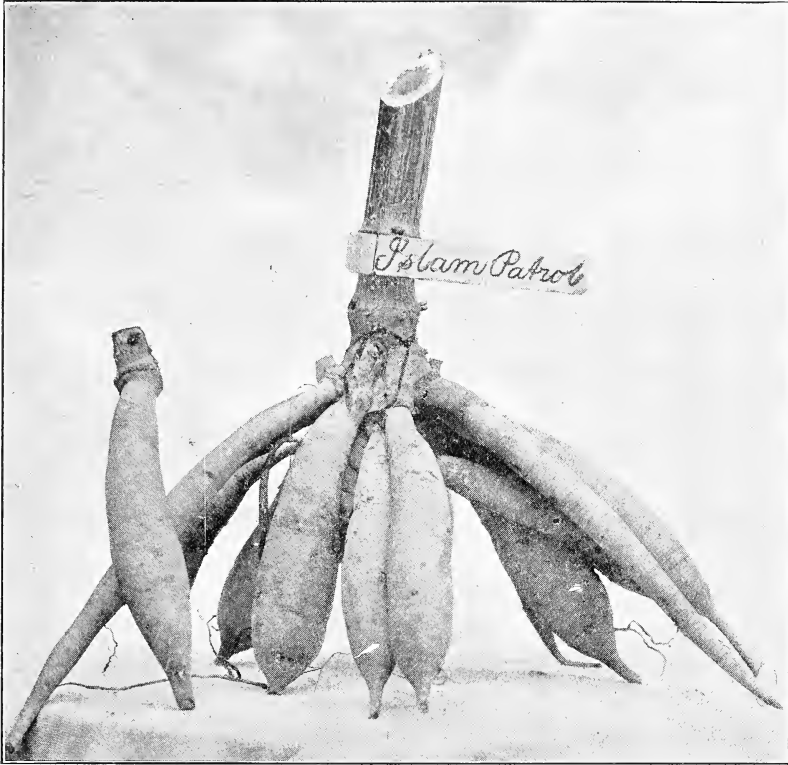
**Swallow**—Pure white flowers; always perfect for exhibition. Col. 50c.

**The Grizzly**—Very dark velvety maroon; good for all purposes. D. \$2.00.

**Wm. Welsh**—Yellow. The collar florets are longer than the average. Col. 75c.

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I have an exceptionally fine collection of Pom Pom Dahlias 50c a tuber or \$4.00 a dozen.



### SUGGESTIONS FOR RAISING DAHLIAS

The above cut will show you that it is often necessary to cut a part of the crown (or base of stem) with each tuber when separating the clump for planting. Note the eye on the separated tuber, about half an inch from the neck.

### CULTIVATION

Spade or plough the ground in the early spring about twelve inches deep. If the soil is poor, work in some stable, cow, sheep or artificial fertilizer. A sprinkling of dry slaked lime will also prove beneficial. If possible, work your ground at intervals before planting as the air plays an important part in sweetening the soil.

### PLANTING

I recommend that stakes be driven into the ground about three feet apart before planting, numbering the same and keeping a book or chart with the names of the dahlias and where you obtained the same. If you put the names of the dahlias on the stake visitors will invariably walk on the beds to see them. This extra tramping does not improve

growing conditions. Plant the tubers flat with the eye upward about two inches from the stake, laying them all pointing the same way so that when hoeing later you are not so likely to disturb them. At no time work the soil closer than eight inches from tuber. Cover the tubers with about four inches of soil. If your ground is extra heavy cover the crown of the tuber with some sandy soil.

Plant any time in April or May or a little later in warmer climates.

### CARE

When the plant is about twelve inches tall, tie it to the stake and keep your ground well hoed until just before buds appear. Do not work the ground after buds show. At this time a light mulch of stable manure or straw will help hold the moisture. Tie the plants again to prevent the wind from breaking the outer stems or laterals.

If you desire to grow large flowers with long stems you must disbud, leaving the center bud and pinch out the first and second set of laterals.

It is a very difficult task to instruct one on watering, as this must be governed by climatic conditions. From planting time until buds start to form, I water about four times, after that I give the plants a good watering once a week, unless there is a very hot spell when a light sprinkling on the plant after sunset will prove beneficial.

Try to avoid cutting the flowers when the sun is on them. Trim off most of the leaves and burn the ends of the stems on gas plate or whatever fire you have convenient for about twenty seconds. Then put them into deep cold water. If you follow these instructions, you will find that the dahlia is a good keeper.

After your plants die, dig up the tubers, tag each clump, store in dry basement or shed. If you have severe frosts and snow, cover tubers with dry sand or sawdust and they will be in good condition until separating time the following year.

I will gladly give further information on request.

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ORDER EARLY—Early orders are solicited.

TERMS—Cash with order or in advance of shipment.

GUARANTEE—I guarantee all tubers to be healthy and true to name. If not satisfactory, they should be returned upon delivery.

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**JOIN THE DAHLIA SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA AND THE  
AMERICAN DAHLIA SOCIETY**

DUES TWO DOLLARS PER YEAR



AWARDED  
FIFTEEN FIRST PRIZES  
at SAN FRANCISCO and  
OAKLAND SHOWS  
in 1921

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New Decorative Dahlia "AL MALAIKAH"

J. W. DAVIES, 1125 FILLMORE STREET  
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1923